

The rejection of claim 70 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 70. It is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 41, 63, 65, 66, 68, 71, 72, 80 and 81 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Iwasaki, U. S. Patent No. 5,002,799 (Iwasaki '799), claims 78 and 79 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Iwasaki '799 in view of Iwasaki, U. S. Patent No. 5,599,579 (Iwasaki '579), and claims 1-11, 16-18, 30-33, 42, 63-71, 73 and 78-80 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Clark, U. S. Patent No. 3,804,663 have been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-33, 41, 42 and 63-81. It is respectfully requested the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 34, 36-40, 45, 52-54, 58 and 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and claim 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Anai et al. (Anai), U. S. Patent No. 6,165,552. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The July 3, 1998 filing date of the priority application of the present application (that is, French Application No. 98 08544) is prior to the August 18, 1998 filing date of Anai. Accordingly, Anai does not qualify as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) against the claims of this application. An accurate translation of French Application No. 98 08544 will be submitted shortly for the Examiner's review. It is respectfully requested the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 34-40, 46, 47, 52-54, 57, 58-62, 72 and 74-77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Iwasaki '799 as applied to claims 41, 63, 65, 66, 68, 71, 72, 80 and 81 above and further in view of Anai and claims 55 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Iwasaki '799 in view of Anai as applied to claim 34 above and further in view of Iwasaki '579. The rejection of claims 72 and 74-77 has been rendered moot by their cancellation. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of the remaining claims.

As stated on page 9 of the Office Action, Iwasaki '799 fails to disclose all the features recited in Applicant's claim 34. Anai is not prior art as stated above. In addition, Iwasaki '579 fails to overcome the deficiencies of Iwasaki '799 as applied to claim 34.

In addition, claims 35-40, 46, 47 and 52-62 recite additional features of the invention and are also believed to be allowable at least for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 34 and for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully requested the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 34-40, 45-62 and 82 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Appendix

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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 1-33, 41, 42 and 63-81 are canceled.

Claim 82 is added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

38. (Amended) A method according to claim 34, wherein the coating which spreads under the effect of centrifugal force is deposited on ~~thea substantially plane or slightly convex~~ surface at the moment when it is set into rotation and wherein a nozzle is used for applying the coating directly to the surface of the article, said nozzle being downwardly inclined and situated slightly above the periphery of said ~~substantially plane or slightly convex~~ surface.

48. (Amended) A method according to claim 34, said article being hollow and comprising a bottom and a side wall, wherein ~~the surface on which thea~~ coating is deposited ~~lies~~ inside the article, and wherein the quantity of coating deposited is sufficient to enable it to rise under the effect of centrifugal force at least part of the way up the side wall of the article.

52. (Amended) A method according to claim 34, wherein the coating which spreads under the effect of centrifugal force is deposited on a surface which is ~~itself~~ substantially plane or slightly convex ~~and is situated on the outside of the article~~.

54. (Amended) A method according to claim 52, wherein the ~~substantially plane or slightly convex~~ surface is generally rectangular in shape when observed from above at the moment when the ~~substantially plane or slightly convex~~ surface is set into rotation to spread the coating under the effect of centrifugal force, and wherein a means for applying the coating directly to the surface of the article comprises a nozzle that is downwardly inclined and situated slightly above the periphery of said ~~substantially plane or slightly convex~~ surface.